

Comptroller of the Treasury, in the adjustment of the accounts of Peter L. Mum, discharging clerk of the Interior Department, to allow him the sum of \$5,000, the Comptroller, the clerk of the Committee of Ways and Means, were severely agreed to.

The bill was then read the third time and passed—yeas 97, nays 91—as follows:

YEAS. Messrs. Abbott, Andrew, Baughman, Blair, Branch, Butler, Clark, Coffey, Conner, Davis, Edwards, Evans, Fox, Giddings, Granger, Harlan, Hendricks, Johnson, Keith, Lester, Loomis, May, McKim, Miller, Moore, Nelson, Phelps, Pomeroy, Potter, Ransom, Rogers, Seward, Sherman, Smith, Sprague, Tappan, Thurston, Tilden, Tilton, Van Dusen, Wall, Watkins, Wright, Yates, and 91 others.

NAYS. Messrs. Adams, Allen, Ames, Armstrong, Ayer, Barlow, Bland, Bonham, Bristow, Burlingame, Burwell, Butler, Cady, Chase, Chandler, Clark, Coffey, Conner, Davis, Edwards, Evans, Fox, Giddings, Granger, Harlan, Hendricks, Johnson, Keith, Lester, Loomis, May, McKim, Miller, Moore, Nelson, Phelps, Pomeroy, Potter, Ransom, Rogers, Seward, Sherman, Smith, Sprague, Tappan, Thurston, Tilden, Tilton, Van Dusen, Wall, Watkins, Wright, Yates, and 91 others.

MAIL-STEAMER APPROPRIATION BILL.

On motion of Mr. PHELPS, of Missouri, the House then went into committee of the whole on the bill of the House, Mr. BARNES, of Mississippi, in the chair, and proceeded to the consideration of the bill making appropriations for the transportation of the United States mail by ocean steamers and otherwise, during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1860, general debate having been terminated by resolution of the House.

Mr. WOOD, of Ohio, moved the appropriation of \$426,252, for the transportation of the United States mail to Europe, be stricken out and an appropriation inserted providing for general service for all the principal parts of the United States.

Mr. ENGLISH, of Indiana, raised a point of order which provided for a new system of ocean mail service which would cost the government about five millions of dollars.

The CHAIRMAN decided the amendment to be out of order. This was an appropriation bill to carry out the existing law, whilst the amendment proposed new lines not established by law.

Mr. SEWARD, of Georgia, raised a point of order, but the question being taken, the committee—yeas 97, nays 91, voted.

Mr. HORTON, of Ohio, moved to amend the first section of the bill so as to provide for the payment of the appropriations for this service out of the treasury instead of out of the money arising from the revenue of the Post Office Department. He stated that he offered this amendment to another appropriation \$600,000 for a mail line between New York and Liverpool, and between New York and Havre, and Bremen, and authorizing the Postmaster General to contract for the service with responsible parties in steamers twice a month from New York to Liverpool, and once a month to Havre and Bremen, for a period not exceeding ten years, should do this for the purpose of giving efficiency to this service.

Mr. PHELPS, of Missouri, opposed the amendment on the ground that it would make the treasury responsible for these appropriations, thus changing the existing law providing that no other compensation can be paid for this service except that arising from the postage on the mail matter transported thereon.

The question being taken the amendment was rejected.

Mr. HORTON then moved his second amendment, which the Chair ruled out of order, and an appeal being taken, the decision of the Chair was sustained—yeas 84, nays 53.

Mr. SEWARD moved that the appropriation of \$426,252 for mail service between the United States and Southampton, Liverpool, Bremen, Havre, or such other port or ports in Europe as the Postmaster General may direct be stricken out; pending which, after a long and animated discussion—

Mr. ENGLISH, of Indiana, moved that the enacting clause be stricken out, which motion was agreed to.

On motion of Mr. BURNETT, of Kentucky, the committee then rose and reported the bill to the House.

Mr. PHELPS, of Missouri, demanded the previous question; pending which—

Mr. JONES, of Tennessee, moved that the bill be laid on the table; which motion did not prevail—yeas 81, nays 70—as follows:

YEAS. Messrs. Abbott, Andrew, Baughman, Blair, Branch, Butler, Clark, Coffey, Conner, Davis, Edwards, Evans, Fox, Giddings, Granger, Harlan, Hendricks, Johnson, Keith, Lester, Loomis, May, McKim, Miller, Moore, Nelson, Phelps, Pomeroy, Potter, Ransom, Rogers, Seward, Sherman, Smith, Sprague, Tappan, Thurston, Tilden, Tilton, Van Dusen, Wall, Watkins, Wright, Yates, and 70 others.

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THE YANKEES AND INDIANS.

On motion of Mr. PHELPS, of Missouri, the House went into committee of the whole on the bill of the House, Mr. BARNES, of Mississippi, in the chair, and proceeded to the consideration of the bill making appropriations for the fulfillment of treaty stipulations with the Yankees and Tonawanda Indians.

Mr. PHELPS stated that the total amount to be paid them for the fulfillment of their lands was \$389,000. He held in his hand the bill of the House, and read the amount he had been told to be paid to them, he was told that these were respectively due to the Indians in pursuance thereof. He then moved that the bill be amended so as to appropriate \$225,066 for the removal of the Seneca Indians or Florida west of the Mississippi river.

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. PHELPS next moved to amend the bill so as to provide for the payment of the interest on the sum of \$250,000, provided for by the eighth article of the treaty.

The amendment was agreed to, and the committee rose and reported the bill to the House.

Mr. PHELPS demanded the previous question; which was seconded; and, under the operation thereof, the amendments were agreed to, and the bill passed.

THE WASHINGTON AGREEMENT.

Mr. BURNETT, of Kentucky, moved that the rules be suspended in order to enable him to report from the committee on the District of Columbia bill to fix the terms upon which the citizens of Washington and Georgetown shall have the Washington aqueduct and be supplied with Potomac water.

[The bill provides for the appointment by the President of the United States of a civil engineer, at a salary of \$3,000 per annum, invested with full power to take charge of the works and other fixtures, and arrange the terms upon which the two cities are to be supplied, provided no expense shall be devolved upon the government of the United States, and the government shall be supplied with water free of cost; also, confer powers upon the municipal government to fix a scale of water rent, and for stopping the supply of such persons as may fail or neglect to pay it; also, for the purpose of enabling the two cities to supply the water, makes it competent for the two corporations to borrow, in such proportion as they may deem expedient, a sum of money not exceeding \$150,000 for Washington and \$50,000 for Georgetown, to be repaid within ten years from any revenue that may accrue from water rents; also, fixes penalties for any injury that may be done to the mains or any other fixtures.]

The question being taken, the motion was agreed to—yeas 108, nays 29; and the bill was then read three times and passed.

THE ARMY APPROPRIATION BILL.

On motion of Mr. CRAWFORD, of Georgia, the House then went into committee of the whole on the bill of the House, Mr. BARNES, of Mississippi, in the chair, and proceeded to the consideration of the bill making appropriations for the army for the year ending June 30, 1860, general debate having been closed by resolution of the House.

Mr. CRAWFORD then stated that there were some twenty-eight amendments, a large majority of which were not offered by the Committee of Ways and Means. He thought that ten years from any revenue that may accrue from water rents; also, fixes penalties for any injury that may be done to the mains or any other fixtures.]

The question being taken, the motion was agreed to—yeas 108, nays 29; and the bill was then read three times and passed.

Mr. GARETT moved that the committee rise for the purpose of taking a recess; upon which motion no question was taken, the bill was called and the absence reported to the House.

The CHAIRMAN answered his place, and the committee proceeded to the consideration of the pending amendments.

After several hours spent in their consideration, the committee rose, and reported that the committee had concurred in some, rejected others, and amended others.

Mr. CRAWFORD demanded the previous question; pending which—

Mr. PHELPS, of Missouri, from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported a bill making appropriations for the payment of the expenses of the several investigating committees, and for other purposes; and it was taken up and passed.

And then the House adjourned.

In the report of the colloquy which took place yesterday between Messrs. REAGAN and BRYAN, of Texas, we should have stated that Mr. BRYAN, in reply to the inquiry of Mr. REAGAN as to whether Mr. BRYAN intended to be understood in the language complained of as imputing dishonorable motive to him, disclaimed such an imputation, and afterwards used the language imputed to him in the report.

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NORTH ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.

To the honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America.

The undersigned, Talliferro P. Shaffner, of the State of Kentucky, respectfully petitions your honorable bodies for the following benefits hereinafter set forth.

For many years, and on both continents, he has been professionally engaged as an electric telegrapher, and early in his connection with the novel enterprise he devised plans and had in view the extension of this means of communication between Europe and America.

In the year 1853 he commenced his labors directly to the construction of an Atlantic telegraph, by designing to run the cable between Newfoundland and Ireland. About the same time practical and well-defined discoveries demonstrated the retardation of the electric current in submarine wires. This development in the science determined the impracticability of working long sub-aqueous conductors for practical telegraphic purposes.

For the first time this discovery in Europe he made experiments which fully sustained the above philosophy. Up to the present time there has been no discovery in the sciences or inventions in the arts changing the state of things above set forth.

With determined soul the undersigned held to the truth of this new development in science. Others, with resolute faith, confided in the practicability of working a cable any length in the ocean. The most signal and complete failure of the late Atlantic telegraph has demonstrated the correctness of the position in the science and art of telegraphing held by the undersigned, and promulgated by him throughout the world; at the very time, when the engineers of the Pacific cables, who are celebrating its triumph in vain glory, with more than the "pomp and circumstance of war" fanatically displayed in the darkest ages!

With the full faith in the philosophy hereinbefore mentioned, the undersigned proceeded, in 1854, to negotiate with the Danish government for the right to run a telegraph cable over Greenland, Iceland, and the Færoe Isles. His Majesty, the King of Denmark, awarded to the undersigned the exclusive privilege over those territories for the term of one hundred years from the 16th of August, 1854. In 1855 the governments of Norway and Sweden granted to the undersigned concessions, having in view the consummation of the telegraph designed by him.

Without any intermission, the undersigned has had in contemplation, and has exerted himself towards the perfection of the before-mentioned telegraph; and at the present time he has important negotiations pending before great powers for the complete triumph of his proposed international telegraph, free from and unencumbered by the cable now being run by the Atlantic telegraph.

He has never for a moment been deterred to prosecute so zealously this particular enterprise by a desire for speculation, but, on the contrary, he has been aiming for the realization of more noble and glorious ends—not for personal aggrandizement, but for the good of man.

Accordingly herewith he transmits a map prepared by him with much care, having traced thereon the different proposed ocean telegraphs, and their respective lengths. That under the Royal Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish concessions, is called the North Atlantic Telegraph, and its route will be seen as extending across Labrador, Greenland, Iceland, and the Færoe Isles. The longest cable will be about five hundred miles, which might embrace some half dozen electric wires, so that different nations can have their preferred wires for their respective interests.

The map will show the fact that New Orleans will be 1,558 miles nearer St. Petersburg, via North Atlantic route, than by the Cape of Good Hope route. The depths of the ocean and the celerity of the electric current on sub-aqueous conductors are given for different distances, up to 2,500 miles. A philosophical fact is stated in the memorial presented to the Senate at the first session of the present Congress by the undersigned, to the effect that the electric current was materially retarded by the magnetic action of submarine wires. It was therein stated that on a number sixteen copper wire a wave would require full nine seconds to overcome the distance between Ireland and Newfoundland. It has been supposed that the conductor in the late cable had three times greater facilities for the transmission of the electric current, and that it would have been five times as fast as the present cable. To the contrary, the resistance to the intensity of the current through the late cable was about one-third that of the common number sixteen copper wire.

In the attempt to work the late cable the maximum number of electric waves received over it, including intelligible signals, was at the rate of one wave for each 34 seconds. From these facts it will be seen that the science practically demonstrated by the late cable is not substantially set forth by the undersigned in his memorial to the last session of Congress.

He further states that he has expended towards this enterprise over one hundred thousand dollars, and he contemplates a further outlay the coming season in having the whole route of the north Atlantic telegraph carefully surveyed. To the undersigned, to whom the engineers and other assistants to accompany him in the expedition to start early in June next, traversing respectively Labrador, Greenland, Iceland, &c. In order to facilitate the consummation of this important enterprise, he would most respectfully petition the Congress of the United States to authorize the President of the United States to employ the Secretary of the Navy to rent such assistance as may be practicable—consistent with the interest of the public service—towards the said telegraph by permitting the government ships to convey over the respective seas the before-mentioned surveying expedition.

The undersigned, however, seeks this aid, provisional that the said telegraph shall be open to all nations alike, strictly in conformity with the royal Danish concession, which embraces as a fundamental principle, viz:

"THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF DENMARK WILL FOREVER REFRAIN AND PRESERVE THE RIGHT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND THE PEOPLE OF ALL NATIONS, TO TRANSMIT OVER THE LINE OF CABLES CONSTRUCTED, MAINTAINED, AND MANAGED BY THE DANISH GOVERNMENT, ANY AND ALL MESSAGES, CALCULATED TO PROMOTE WAR, INSURRECTION, RIOT, OR THE VIOLATION OF PEACE AMONG NATIONS."

Respectfully submitted,

TALLIFERO P. SHAFFNER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 1, 1859.

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES.

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 1859.

On motion of Hon. Stephen A. Douglas, Almon B. Tres and Robert E. Williams, exrs., of Illinois, were admitted attorneys and counselors of this court.

No. 72. John M. Walker, appellant, vs. Jonathan B. H. Smith. The argument of this case was concluded by Mr. Davidge for the appellant.

No. 73. Samuel Pearce, plaintiff in error, vs. The Madison and Indianapolis Railroad Company and the Peoria and Indianapolis Railroad Company. This case was submitted to the consideration of the court on the record and printed arguments, by Mr. Fox for the plaintiff in error, and by Mr. Hendricks for the defendants in error.

No. 74. Wm. F. Lee, appellant, vs. The Polk County Copper Company &c. The argument of this case was commenced by Mr. F. Stanton for the appellant, and continued by Mr. R. H. Smith for the appellees.

Adjourned until to-morrow, 11 o'clock.

COURT OF CLAIMS.

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 1859.

Mary Williams, ex. the United States. The argument of this case, opened yesterday in behalf of the claimant by Mr. Polk, was continued this morning by Mr. Ratcliff, Assistant Solicitor on behalf of the government. Mr. Gillet, United States Solicitor, closed the argument on behalf of the government. Mr. Brent, of Baltimore, commenced the concluding argument for the claimant; and before finishing, the court adjourned to 12 o'clock, to-morrow.

"Suspicion is a being whose full power lights everything it touches—fruit or flower."

This is all true of public credit. If this government should hereafter require at various periods two hundred millions of dollars, the neglect of the present

WASHINGTON CITY.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 1859.

Business Notice.

As the business of the Union establishment, in view of the proposed change in its terms, will be conducted strictly on a cash basis, all remittances for the collection of subscriptions for the Union are discontinued. No payments should be made to agents after this date, except to Mr. W. C. Upson, Jr., who is authorized to make collections in Baltimore, Maryland, and Virginia.

Washington, March 2, 1859.—
The foregoing notice is not intended to include any agents or collectors who now employ or have heretofore employed in this city, but those only who have performed such service in other parts of the country. Ap 29—4f

For telegraphic and local news see fourth page.

ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE PRESIDENT.

The Baltimore Exchange seems bent on proving the truth of the adage that "one renegade is worse than ten Turks." Ever since it apostatized to the black-republican faction it has been teeming with bitter abuse of the President and other members of the democratic party. Its issue of Monday contains a leader which is noticeable on account of its monstrous malignity and coarseness of assault. Without soiling our paper by quoting its statements we avail ourselves of the occasion it furnishes to give the public (not the Exchange) a few words of plain truth.

1. The President never did, on any occasion since he has been in office, say a word or do an act which was calculated or intended to control or influence, directly or indirectly, the giving out of any contract by the head of any department, except to say that it must and should be done according to law and agreeably to the best judgment of the proper officer in the way most calculated to promote the public service. To this assertion we defy contradiction.

2. The appointment of Dr. Hunter as agent of the Navy Department for the purchase of coal, was made upon the strongest recommendations, and in the way and upon the terms which had been sanctioned by the previous practice of the department and the existing law. The commissions allowed him were such as were perfectly fair, as well as usual, and it has not even been asserted that they are too high. But the agent employed sub-agents and divided the commissions. This affected the government in no one way or another. The service was performed and the proper legal compensation was paid.

3. The charge that the President had anything to do with the contract of Mr. Swift for live-oak timber is absurdly and extravagantly false. Still more preposterous is the allegation that Mr. Plitt's connexion with that or other contracts of Mr. Swift was in any way known to or brought about by the President. He knew nothing and heard nothing of that connexion until long after it had ceased to exist.

4. The Patterson letter (written by a gentleman of as high character as any in the Union) was ascertained by the President's private secretary to concern a subject relating to the Navy Department, and was referred to the head of that department, as a matter of course. But the President never expressed or intimated a desire that the contract therein referred to should be given to any particular person. He left the whole matter where the law had put it, and where he had entire confidence that it would be properly and justly attended to.

THE CREDIT AND HONOR OF THE GOVERNMENT.

We are approaching the close of the present legislative session. Three days remain for action upon measures in the decision of which are involved the credit and honor of the federal government. The receipts into the treasury are much less than what is required to administer existing laws. For more than a year the public credit has been pledged for means to carry on the government. Bonds have been issued; treasury notes have been issued to meet imperious current necessities. Of the latter about nineteen millions of dollars, bearing four and four and a half per centum interest, remain in the hands of the people. They are receivable at the public offices. Congress so far has made no other provision for their redemption. To the extent that they are received at the customs they take the place of money, and, of course, to that extent deprive the treasury of the means of meeting public necessities in the way of ordinary expenditures. Congress has not authorized on any terms the release of these notes; nor has it provided for the issue of bonds, the sale of which would supply the government with such amounts from custom-houses as are being paid in treasury notes. Should the present session close without making provision either for the issue of new bonds or the release of treasury notes, we see no possible escape from bankruptcy by the government of the United States. It is said that the President may call an extra session of Congress; we answer that an extra session of Congress may lock the door after the horse is stolen, but can provide no adequate remedy for the discord that has been overtaken the government. On the fifth of March, treasury notes now par in the commercial markets will fall so far below that standard as to be sought after and paid into the treasury in the place of money. The treasury then will be in the way of redeeming that class of indebtedness; and utterly powerless to satisfy demands on account of current business. In fact, inevitable bankruptcy must follow the neglect of Congress to provide ways and means. And what is this bankruptcy? Is it to be passed an idle and adventurous accident of political life? The government often needs money, and the settled policy of the laws renders it almost certain that we shall have to resort to capitalists hereafter to supply it. It is proposed to purchase the island of Cuba; a large loan in that event would be inevitable. We may be involved in foreign wars and require vast sums in maintaining the honor of the government. No nation is independent of capitalists; and we are not. If we consult our past history it is full of money negotiations and checkered all over with the bonds of the government. With ample resources the treasury is in the way of constant depletion. Twice within the past year we appealed to capital for aid. What is now presented to the country by their Congress? A neglect—and a criminal neglect—to maintain the integrity of the public credit. Credit is a sensitive organ of business. A breath of suspicion thrown upon it is enough to destroy its character. It is honor or dishonor. There are two extremes and no middle ground in all large transactions. It is either good or it is absolutely worthless.

"Suspicion is a being whose full power lights everything it touches—fruit or flower."

This is all true of public credit. If this government should hereafter require at various periods two hundred millions of dollars, the neglect of the present

Congress properly to shield and protect its honor now will have cost the treasury many millions of dollars.

We speak of this matter in a financial point of view alone. The obligations of the treasury are already tainted. Public suspicion has been excited. It is said, that if Congress is divided and contending up to the last day of the session without providing proper means to maintain the public credit, what may we not expect hereafter? If the holders of securities and the just claimants upon the government are put off to the last hour before provision is made for them, by this Congress, have they any guarantee that a step forward will not be taken by the next by which they will be left to petition for redress?

But is it not due to the integrity of this great and powerful people that their public indebtedness should be held sacred, and be sacredly redeemed? Shall their government, the proudest and the freest in the world—that government which was created by Washington, Franklin, Jefferson, Adams, and their patriotic associates and collaborators—be dishonored by the neglect of the representatives of the people in 1859 to provide means for maintaining its honor as a debtor?

This is not all. Should Congress fail to authorize the treasury to issue new bonds, or to reissue treasury notes, it will become the imperative duty of the President to act solely with reference to the means placed in his hands to conduct public affairs. It is not enough to vote appropriations; to say that fifty millions shall be expended without providing the fifty millions to be expended. The President has pointed out the necessities of the government, and has shown how the ordinary incomes under existing laws are insufficient; how those laws should be modified so as to increase the receipts. Congress has paid no attention to his representations in this respect; and is now within three days of adjournment diligently voting appropriations in the face of a bankrupt treasury and a failing credit. A business man that would conduct affairs in such manner would be thrown into a lunatic asylum, and his property transferred to trustees for safe-keeping. Amidst all this extraordinary history we hear scarcely a word or tone of anxiety about the honor of the nation which is thus threatened with bankruptcy and ruin. Are we so rich as to be indifferent to what we do? Are we so poor that measures cannot save us? Is it true, indeed, that the nation is overruled by a cold, selfish partisanship—by a wicked and disgraceful scramble of ambitious and corrupt politicians, who are as insensible to the necessity of maintaining the national honor as they are deaf to every consideration which does not look to their own individual advancement? We cannot believe in the reality of what, in this respect, is too apparent. The sober second thought may yet come; but vast injury to the public credit has already been done. It is estimated by moneyed men that the federal securities are three per cent. less than they would have been under proper legislation by Congress. The government of Austria, embarrassed by an immense public debt and threatening a European war, has just negotiated a loan on terms more favorable than the rates at which our securities are held in the public markets of the world. If we ask why this is? The answer on 'Change is that Congress has ceased to exhibit the characteristics of statesmanship, and has fallen to the low estate of political management and intrigue. The republican party opened the present session by a public avowal of irresponsibility, thus dedicating themselves wholly to faction; and it must be confessed their example has proved more or less contagious.

GOVERNOR TUCKER'S LETTER AND THE NAVAL INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE.

We give in another column, and invite special attention to it, Governor Tucker's letter to the naval investigating committee of the House of Representatives. Governor Tucker is an able man, of unimpeachable character, long tried in public service, cautious and circumspect in all the relations of life, and precisely the person we should select to meet and overweigh the calumnies of partisan warfare.

The committee of investigation was suggested by the opposition, and constituted, by the appointment of the Speaker, of a majority opposed to the administration, whose official conduct they were charged to examine and report upon. We do not criticize the policy which controlled the appointment. So far as the Secretary of the Navy is concerned, it was perhaps the wiser course to intrust the investigation to the opposition. Nobody believed that the personal and official integrity of that gentleman could be impeached; and none who knew of his high qualifications and experience thought for a moment that any serious mistakes could be rightly laid to his charge.

After a laborious and minute inquiry into the management of the Navy Department, and an unprecedented search for private and public communications, the committee made a report exonerating Gov. Tucker from every charge of improper or unfaithful conduct. We might here rest the case; but it is due to the public and to the cause of truth that a few leading facts connected with it should be laid before the country. The investigation originated with the opposition. It was intended by it to effect partisan objects. It was not a legislative undertaking in any just sense. There was not a single man in Congress who believed that the Secretary of the Navy had either neglected his duties as a public officer or been identified in any manner with schemes to defraud the government. There was not a man in Congress, in our judgment, who believed that any unusual transactions injurious to the government had taken place within the jurisdiction of the Navy Department. It so happened that Governor Tucker was a prominent statesman of Connecticut, commanding justly the confidence of the people of that Commonwealth; and as the signs were as numerous as the stars in the heavens that republicanism was on the wane there, an effort was made to discredit him and the democratic party by exposing all the petty mismanagement which years had entailed in one of the leading departments of the government. Well, the work was commenced, as we have said, by the reference of the whole subject, with plenary powers, to a committee, a majority of which was composed of enemies of the administration and the democratic party.

An investigation followed, the record of which covers 1,216 octavo pages; on the 53 of the first part of which a majority of the committee resolve, "That nothing has been proven in this investigation which impeaches, in any way, the personal or official integrity of the Secretary of the Navy."

A strong effort was made to convict the department of improper conduct in executing contracts for the delivery of live-oak timber for the different yards; and the minority of the committee have seized upon those transactions, and by violent inferences and direct misrepresentations have sought to fasten upon the Secretary the charge of special favoritism towards Mr. Swift who undertook to deliver the supplies. It will be remembered that on the 12th of June last Congress directed the construction of eight small steam vessels. From the commencement of that month, great excitement existed in the country and in Congress on the subject of the search of our merchant vessels in the Cuban seas. The President, under special authority conferred upon him, had previously determined to send a large fleet to Paraguay. An unusual demand existed for vessels of war, and it was determined, as rapidly as possible, to press on the work of construction and repairs at the different yards. The government, under the old system of constructing frigates, had a limited supply of large timber; but such as was adapted to present wants, and such as might be required in the event of difficulty with England, of small live-oak timber there was little, if any, on hand. On the 14th of June the Secretary of the Navy advertised for supplies; and required the delivery at an early period, as the circumstances demanded he should. The bidders, it seems, calculated upon obtaining more time, and fixed their rates accordingly. It turned out that they could not comply with the terms of their agreement, and they applied for an extension of time, which the Secretary refused. They then forfeited their contracts. The Secretary had a right at once to purchase in open market; but this he declined to do, and finally, on the offer of Mr. Swift, closed an agreement with him on the rates fixed by the first contract. Mr. Swift had a portion of the timber on hand, and this is attested by the minority as constructive evidence of improper collusion between the department and that gentleman. Some of the bidders testify that their offers were based upon the idea that they could get an extension of time; and the government is charged with fault in not granting such extension, though by doing so the witnesses themselves testify they would have secured an advantage in the price of the article.

We have seen nothing in modern times to compare at all with the cool impudence of the minority report in this respect. It is argued laboriously that the fact that Mr. Swift had the ability to comply with his contract is all against his integrity and that of the department. It arrays an army of aggrieved parties who complain that the time limited in the advertisement for the delivery of the first instalment of timber was too short to suit their convenience. It does not follow that exhibit with the proof that the price paid was exorbitant; that it was more than others had demanded; that the government had suffered in the transaction. On the other hand, the inference from the testimony is that the government saved from twenty-five to thirty thousand dollars by the transaction complained of.

THE ADMINISTRATION IN WASHINGTON TERRITORY.

There are no democrats in the Union more zealous in their devotion to the cause of the national party, and more cordial in their support of the national administration, than those of the Pacific slope. We have had occasion to speak of the spirit which actuates the democracy of the two Pacific States of California and Oregon. We now have a formal and official embodiment of the democratic sentiment of Washington Territory. The following resolutions, which have just been adopted by the legislative assembly of that new and promising Territory, speak in becoming terms of a faithful democratic administration, and of the able, indefatigable, and efficient delegate to Congress from Washington, Governor Stevens:

Extending the thanks of this legislature to the present administration, and also Gov. Stevens, the present delegate in Congress from this Territory.

Resolved by the Council of the Territory of Washington, (the House concurring,) That this body, as the representatives of the people thereof, have an abiding and unpaired confidence in the integrity, justice, and ability of the administration of President Buchanan, and of the able manner in which they have given us to understand that it is in their determination to discharge their duty faithfully, to the great interest of the United States possessions.

Resolved, That our confidence in the integrity, ability, and working qualities of Gov. Stevens, the present delegate in Congress for this Territory, is unimpaired; and that we can confidently look forward to his services in Congress for the interests of these Territories with pride and pleasure, being assured that he will do all that our man can do for the advancement of all the interests with which this portion of the United States possessions are identified.

Wherever and whenever the democracy of the country speak, it is in tones of confidence in their administration, of devotion to the cause for the sake of the cause, regardless of the interests of men, and of proud and hopeful anticipations of the destiny of the country.

THE THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT.

Among the nominees to represent the people of Connecticut in the next House of Representatives recently made by the democratic party of that State is the name of Col. Rufus L. Baker, of Windham.

In this nomination the democrats are to be congratulated on the selection of a candidate so worthy, in all respects, of receiving the support not only of the party, but of all the voters who desire to have the district faithfully, efficiently, and honorably represented in the national legislature. Nearly the whole of Col.